

House Bill 545, “An act to: (1) Provide the Housing Finance Agency two additional powers concerning real property and services retained for issuance of Bonds; (2) Authorize a onetime bulk update of registered agent information; (3) Amend the list of entities included as ‘established legal services programs’ to which the North Carolina State Bar may allocate funds under the Access to Civil Justice Act and the Domestic Violence Assistance Act; (4) Validate certain notarial acts filed in the Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds office; (5) Validate certain notarial acts performed on or before May 1, 2008; (6) Make a technical change to the name of the North Carolina State Art Society; (7) Make various changes related to the verification, recordation, and indexing of documents presented to registers of deeds; (8) Clarify scope of authority to impose sanctions in mediated settlement conferences; (9) Provide an extension of time for the realignment of budgets within the Department of Public Instruction; (10) Authorize increased dormitory capacity in certain county detention facilities; and (11) Authorize the State Treasurer to disclose the names and addresses of retired state and local employees to certain organizations.” The bill was sponsored by Rep. Deborah Ross (D-Wake). Portions of the law become effective upon the governor’s signature and Oct. 1, 2008.

House Bill 2498, “An act (1) To provide additional funds for the assessment and cleanup of releases and discharges of petroleum from underground storage tanks by increasing the fees paid by owners and operators of commercial underground storage tanks; (2) To establish limitations on the time in which: the Department of Environment and Natural Resources must make an eligibility determination, requests for payment or reimbursement may be submitted to the department, and the department may take administrative action or bring a civil action to recover payments that were not authorized by law, that were made on the basis of fraudulent information, or for other reasons; (3) To clarify financial responsibility requirements; (4) To reduce the incidence of leaks by requiring secondary containment for all components of regulated petroleum underground storage tank systems; (5) To clarify requirements for registration of commercial tanks; (6) To provide for expedited assessment and cleanup of releases and discharges from petroleum underground storage tanks by requiring the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to establish a pilot program to evaluate the use of site-specific cleanup standards; (7) To provide for reclassification of a site to a lower risk classification; and (8) To provide for various studies and reports as recommended by the Environmental Review Commission.” The bill was sponsored by Reps. Lucy Allen (D-Franklin) and Pryor Gibson (D-Anson). Portions of the law become effective upon the governor’s signature and Jan. 1, 2009.

House Bill 2785, “An act to allow the state to acquire locks and dams one, two, and three on the Cape Fear River from the United States.” The bill was sponsored by Rick Glazier (D-Cumberland), Margaret Dickson (D-Cumberland), Marvin Lucas (D-Cumberland) and William Brisson (D-Bladen). The law becomes effective upon the governor’s signature.

###